

Abstract

The invention relates to remote control of an unmanned aerial vehicle, UAV, (100) from a control station (110) by means of a wireless command link (115). The UAV (100) may be controlled
5 in an autonomous mode wherein it flies according to a primary route (R1, R1') defined by a first set of predefined waypoints (WP1-WP8, IP). The UAV (100) may also be controlled in a manual mode wherein it flies according to an alternative primary route (R1') defined in real-time by control commands received
10 via the wireless command link (115). Flight control parameters are monitored in both modes, and in case a major alarm condition occurs, the UAV (100) is controlled to follow an emergency route (R2') defined by a second set of predefined waypoints (HP1-HP7, TP1-TP9, IP). Particularly, a major alarm
15 condition is activated if an engine failure is detected. Then, the emergency route (R2') involves flying the UAV (100) to an air space above a termination waypoint (TP9) on the ground at which it is estimated that the vehicle's (100) flight may be ended without injuring any personnel or causing uncontrolled material
20 damages.

(Fig. 1)